Commissioner of Railway Safety as per provisions of Indian Railway Act. 1989. Commission of Railway Safety is an organisation functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, thereby ensuring its impartiality. In many other foreign railways also such statutory bodies exist for conducting inquiries into rail accidents. Commissioners of Railway Safety (CRS) being ex-railwaymen have adequate knowledge for undertaking such inquiries since inquiries into railway accidents are of a technical nature. It may not be possible for a non-railwayman to complete such an inquiry within the limited time frame available for its completion. Except in few isolated cases where cause of an accident could not be established, in most other cases CRSs are able to arrive at the most probable cause of the accident.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for getting rail accidents inquiries, including the one that occurred in Kerala, conducted by some other agency.

Promotion of bill clerk/issuer in Northern Railway

2875. SHRI AB ANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway has recently promoted some persons at the post of bill clerk/bill issuer through computer in its VIP canteens in Parliament complex who are totally illiterate;

(b) if so, the facts thereof with qualification of each of the person;

(c) the criteria adopted in selecting the persons for the post;

(d) whether the Northern Railway would ensure that only educated and qualified persons are given such posts in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Three persons, S/Shri Om Prakash, Ram Pal Singh and Matwar Singh, working as Head Waiters in the pay scale of Rs. 2650—4000 were recently promoted as Bill Issuer in the pay scale of Rs. 2750—4400 in the Parliament House Catering Complex. While S/Shri Om Prakash and Ram Pal Singh are Class 6th and Class 8th passed respectively, the service record of Shri Matwar Singh does not indicate his qualification. However, he meets the basic requirement of knowledge of reading and writing.

(c) The post of Bill Issuer being non-selection post, promotion thereto is made on seniority-cum-suitability basis, the suitability of persons concerned having been adjudged by a senior scale officer in the Parliament House Catering Complex.

(d) and (e) The qualification for future recruitment to entry grade of Waiter in the pay scale of Rs. 2610—3540 has since been prescribed as Class 8th. They will be eligible for further promotion on seniorty-cum-suitability basis as Head Waiter in grade Rs. 2650—4000 and then as Bill Issuer in grade Rs. 2750—4400.

Promotion for Class IV employees

2876. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Class IV employees working in Railway Canteens in Parliament Complex (Northern Railway) are given promotion as per seniority;

(b) if so, whether the educated and qualified Class IV employees are ignored in giving promotions;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to encourage and promote those Class IV employees who are educated, by selecting through conducting exams, etc. and ignoring the seniority list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) All higher grades posts in group D' other than initial recruitment grade are filled in on seniority-cum-suitability basis being non-selection posts. Suitability of staff is adjudged in order of their seniority. At present, there is no provision to give promotion to the staff solely on the basis of educational qualification, ignoring the seniority.

Fore-warning of earthquakes

† 2877. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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